



In Case of Emergency...

Monthly Newsletter of the Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

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CSEPP ANNUAL EXERCISE

September 18 was a cool and drizzly day – perfect for galoshes, umbrellas and hot soup.

But in the exercise world of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, it was a beautiful warm day with a light breeze blowing – terrible conditions for three VX-filled land mines under which to explode. That was the exact scenario exercise players had to confront.

Response to the “incident” went just as planned. Traffic control points, decontamination sites, reception centers and shelters were set up to assist “evacuees” from the areas surrounding Deseret Chemical Depot. Hospitals were put on stand by to receive the “injured,” and the medical examiner was called to deal with a “heart attack victim” at one of the decontamination sites.

Tooele, Utah and Salt Lake counties and the state all activated their emergency operations centers and coordinated response efforts for the community. The Tooele Community



Joint Information Center opened to keep the mock media apprised of the situation.

Communication and cooperation between all of the jurisdictions went very smoothly. This is largely due to the training and previous exercises held in the program.

This year's exercise differed from previous years in a couple of ways. This is the first exercise since the

completion of the GB campaign. GB posed a greater threat to the off post community and was frequently used in exercise scenarios.

Second, a Service Response Force Exercise picked up where the CSEPP exercise left off. As part of that exercise, the Joint Information Center, Tooele County Emergency Operation Center and the Deseret Chemical Depot continued play for an additional 24 hours, demonstrating the first part of the recovery phase. A town hall meeting with those “affected” by the scenario ended that exercise.

Overall there were no major problems identified in the exercise. “In general, we are ready to deal with a chemical stockpile incident or any incident we might have in Utah,” said DES Director Scott Behunin. “However, there is always room for improvement. We use these exercises to learn where that improvement needs to take place.”



HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS

The first wave of Homeland Security grants is on its way to Utah. The grants focus on operations planning, Citizen Corp/CERT and emergency operation centers.

More than \$785,000 will be provided to the state to update emergency operations plans statewide. The majority of that money, \$589,000 will be made available to local communities to update their plans. DES will also update the State EOP to ensure it covers all hazards.



The Citizen Corp/CERT grants will allow for the creation of Citizen Corp Councils and the expansion of Community Emergency Response Team training. Roughly \$256,000 will be available to Utah with 75 percent passed through to local communities.

The third grant is the first phase of funding for states to upgrade emergency operation centers. With this first phase, the state will under go a needs assessment to ensure our EOC meets basic requirements as outlined by FEMA. A grant proposal based on that assessment will then be submitted to FEMA before upgrades can be made.

DES must submit its applications by November 8. The money is expected to arrive about a month later. Local emergency managers will receive information on applying for pass through grants this winter.

These grants were authorized by congress as supplemental fiscal year 2002 grants. More than \$225 million will be provided to state and local governments across the country through these grants.

TRAINING UPDATE

The 2003 training calendar is now available on the DES website. Courses offered include professional development as well as CSEPP and Hazardous Material Institute classes. Please visit des.utah.gov for more information and to register.

In addition, the national Emergency Management



Institute recently altered its enrollment procedures. It now accepts applications during open enrollment periods. The next enrollment period will be November 1 – December 31 for those wishing to take classes

offered at EMI in April through September of next year.

EMI registration forms must be turned into Jody Horn, training section manager, for state signature before they can be submitted to EMI. Please contact Jody at 801-538-3400 or visit training.fema.gov for more information including a training schedule and application form.

SALT LAKE AIRPORT EXERCISE

Submitted by David Hermann, Airport Emergency Program Manager

Saturday, September 14 at midnight, the Salt Lake City Department of Airports conducted a full-scale disaster exercise. The 2-hour drill, named "Operation Terminal Blaze," tested the ability of emergency responders to deal with a terminal fire, evacuation, and mass casualty incident.

More than 17 organizations were represented at the drill, including response agencies from surrounding areas, ambulance companies, local area hospitals, and volunteer groups. A team of eight evaluators, including three from out of state, provided expert assessments of the performance of responders and the design of the drill. More than 250 volunteers, primarily recruited from Delta and Continental Reservations, participated by playing the roles of injured passengers or customers with special needs, such as individuals who were evacuated and separated from family members.



The drill involved real-life simulated events, including the mock crash of a regional jet into the E-Concourse, and a "simulation cell," occupied by three exercise staff members, who made phone calls to the Airport Control Center and command personnel, pretending to be news reporters, concerned citizens, and others.

The final After Action Report, (currently being assembled), will provide a comprehensive indication of the learning experiences of the exercise, from which a true assessment of the success of the drill may be derived. The preliminary opinion of the exercise design team is that because the drill was safe for all involved, realistic, appreciated by Airport Administration, and a mechanism for producing several learning experiences, it was successful.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY SYMPOSIUM

The Utah Association of Contingency Planners and the Utah Emergency Management Association are co-hosting a Business Continuity Symposium Thursday, October 24 at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel.

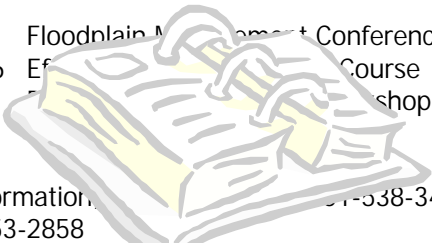
Featured speakers include Dr. Anthony Ng, director of Disaster Psychiatry Outreach, and Albert H. Fluman of the national Emergency Training Center. Salt Lake City Emergency Manager Mike Stever will also lead the symposium in a disaster exercise.

Please visit www.acputah.org for more information or to register.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10-11 Floodplain Management Conference
October 15-16 Emergency Management Course
November 15 Emergency Management Workshop
January 10

For more information, call 801-538-3400 or toll-free at 800-753-2858



NAVAJO MOUNTAIN PROJECT

Tucked away in San Juan County, between Kanab and Blanding lies what is said to be the most remote community in the contiguous 48 states.

Navajo Mountain is a small community with about 650 permanent residents, mostly comprised of "elders" and children. Few employment opportunities are available, and most residents do not have running water or electricity in their homes.

The Southern Utah Association of Local Governments saw the community in need and was anxious to sponsor a Utah Workcamp project to help the residents of Navajo Mountain get back on their feet. The Community Boarding School would be the headquarters, dormitory and cafeteria for project personnel and more than 400 volunteers.

In April 2002 just before the project was to begin, the school's water supply essentially dried up due to severe drought in the area, causing the school board to cancel. At least 150,000 gallons of water would be needed for the school district to allow the facility to be used, and the project to begin.

Determined to help Navajo Mountain, DES joined efforts with the Navajo Nation, Arizona Emergency Management, Utah State Parks and Recreation, KNUT & SONS Water hauler, and the South Eastern Utah Association of Local Governments to bring water levels to capacity. The project was coordinated through the Department of Community and Economic Development.



Together with these organizations, 250,000 gallons of water was delivered to Navajo Mountain. Although this project was deemed "the most challenging in history," in the end, it was a complete success. One resident of Navajo Mountain stated, "This has been an extremely wonderful and blessed week. The crew was great and we are very thankful. We had fun and learned a lot from one another."

*Contributions to this article made by Utah Westernization Assistance Program and the Utah Division of Community Development.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS TO MEET

The Utah Floodplain Management Association's annual conference will be held October 11-12 at the Ogden Marriott. This year's theme is "New Directions in Floodplain Management." Topics will include storm water management regulations, detention basins, new floodplain mapping, alluvial fan development and floodplain restoration.

For more information contact Judy Watanabe at 801-538-3750.

HAZ MAT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

The fourth annual Hazardous Materials Conference has been scheduled for May 20-22 at the Eccles Conference Center in Ogden. This conference has grown in popularity each time it is held. For more information or to register, contact Kris Repp at 801-538-3400 or visit des.utah.gov on the web.